WINNIPEG metro®

NEWS WORTH SHARING.

Customer Appreciation Year End Sales Event

• $2899 ONLY!! Installation included
• Lowest price of the year! Don't wait, Call now!
• 1 Year No Interest No Payment Plan Available!

$1/DAY Financing Available Now!

Canada's Third Largest Heating & Cooling Company
- Over 10 years in home service experience -

Call Us Now! 204-951-3073 1-888-829-1875

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

METRO IS NOT PUBLISHING DEC. 25. PICK UP OUR SPECIAL BOXING DAY EDITION

Taste of Mediterranean® Has Arrived in Winnipeg

BEST SHAWARMA IN TOWN

We Do Catering

Taste of Mediterranean®
244 KENNEDY STREET
for catering and delivery call
(204)942-2304

FREE SIDE ORDER
BUY 1 SANDWICH & 1 DRINK & GET 1 FREE SIDE ORDER
Not valid with any other promotion or special. Not valid on delivery orders. Expires: Jan. 31st, 2014. VALID WITH COUPON ONLY CODE 1001

'Tis the season

Winnipeg is known for its spirit of giving, so we're sure Kris Kringle has a few deliveries to make for 'Peggers on the nice list tonight. For a list of what's open and closed this holiday season, check out metronews.ca/winnipeg. We wish you a safe and healthy holiday season.

ELISHA DACEY/METRO

BARLEY BROTHERS
CRAFT BEER · LOCAL FARE

OPEN AT 11AM ON BOXING DAY
– BOXING WEEK SPECIALS –
WWW.BARLEYBROTHERS.CA | FACEBOOK | TWITTER
655 EMPRESS ST | WINNIPEG MB | 204-772-BEER (2337)

ROGERS™
authorized dealer

WINNIPEG

AirSource
212 Henderson Hwy.
(204) 989-2954

AirSource
1200 McPhillips St.
(204) 989-2927

AirSource
3480-1120 Grant Ave.
(204) 475-0483

AirSource
Unit 20-2583 Pembina Hwy.
(204) 261-1234

AirSource
University Centre
University of Manitoba
(204) 987-3444

AirSource
Portage Place
(204) 946-0721

AirSource
2609 Portage Ave. at Moray
(204) 954-2939

AirSource
1500 Regent Ave. W
(204) 988-3080

AirSource
St. Vital Centre Kiosk
(204) 989-2939

AirSource
St. Vital Centre
(204) 989-2940

AirSource
661 Corydon Ave.
(204) 231-1650

AirSource
Winnipeg Square
(204) 944-8070

Teleco
Kenaston Common
(Kenaston at McGillivray)
(204) 947-9570

Teleco
948 St. James St.
(204) 831-1234

Kildonan Place
(204) 667-8248

Garden City
Shopping Centre
(204) 339-8895

Polo Park
(204) 774-2412

SELKIRK

Nickel Communications
3-344 Main St.
(204) 482-9667

STEINBACH

Nickel Communications
Unit H – 197 Main St.
(204) 326-4988

WINKLER

Nickel Communications
9 – 820 Triple E Blvd.
(204) 325-4121

BRANDON

Teleco
Unit B3 – 1128B 18th St.
(204) 727-0100

Brandon Shoppers Mall
(204) 571-6976

NEEPAWA

Neepawa True Value
268 Hamilton St.
(204) 476-2333

STONEWALL

TMC Distribution
325 Main St.
(204) 467-2014

PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE

Reimer Antenna Service
1000 Saskatchewan Ave. W
(204) 857-9001

SWAN RIVER

Sears Swan River
619 Main St.
(204) 734-4541

DAUPHIN

North of 51 Designs &
Computers
12 2nd Ave. NW
(204) 638-7148

THOMPSON

City Centre Mall
(204) 677-3212

THE PAS

Sound Innovations
317 Fischer Ave.
(204) 623-7171

ROGERS™ authorized dealer · WIRELESSWAVE · WIRELESS etc... · MOBILE · FUTURE SHOP · Tbooth wireless · BEST BUY · THE MOBILE SHOP · LONDON DRUGS

Offers available for a limited time and subject to change without notice. A connection fee of $15 per line applies (to first invoice, applicable to new line/device only) to activate your service on the Rogers network. Device Savings Recovery Fee and/or Service Deactivation Fee (as applicable) apply in accordance with your service agreement. FLEXtab balance corresponds to the sum of the Device Savings Recovery Fee and the Additional Device Savings Recovery Fee. Where applicable, additional airtime, data, long distance, roaming, options and taxes are extra and billed monthly. *Offer ends Jan. 9/14. Samsung GS4 Mini $0 after applicable discount (not exceeding device purchase price) with new activation of a primary line on any 2-yr. talk, text and internet plan or secondary line on any 2-yr. talk, text and internet plan having min. $45 monthly service fee. See in-store for pricing of other eligible Samsung devices (discounted pricing requires new activation on any 2-yr. Smartphone talk, text and internet plan having min. $60 MSF on primary line or min. $55 MSF on secondary line). **1** Offer ends Jan. 9/14. Available to new and existing customers with new activation or upgrade on any Share Everything Plan with a monthly or 2-yr. term. See in-store for full details. TM © 2013 Rogers Communications.

Winnipeg's first e-cigarette storefront open for business

Legal showdown?
Owners expect to hear from Health Canada

SHANE GIBSON
shane.gibson@metronews.ca

Ready and waiting

Fat Panda Vape Shop is open Monday-Saturday at 101-883 Notre Dame Ave.

A pair of Winnipeg business partners isn't waiting for Health Canada to clear the haze around e-cigarettes in Canada.

They've opened the city's first storefront dedicated to the sale of the devices and the nicotine juice currently stuck in a legal grey zone.

"We're open and I'm sure Health Canada will be in touch with us," said U of M business student Jordan Vedoya, who opened Fat Panda Vape Shop with his partner last week. "We don't want to do anything illegal so if something gets put into law saying that this is completely illegal then we will stop."

Until that happens the shop will use the same legal loophole other storefronts springing up across the country have been using to operate — as long as the products they sell aren't marketed as tobacco cessation aids they say they're not breaking any laws. "Health Canada has made the claim that any e-cig product containing nicotine is an unapproved medicine … requiring market authorization from Health Canada," he said. "However, the sale and distribution of e-juice in my store does not involve myself or any of my associates making any medicinal (or) therapeutic claims, therefore, we do not need any clearance or market authorization from Health Canada for the sale of our products."

Vedoya doesn't sell to minors, and says the response he's been getting from customers has been encouraging. The store wasn't supposed to open until the new year.

"The store … opened up when my brother-in-law was testing out the open sign in the front window and people started coming in," he said.

Jordan Vedoya is the co-owner of Fat Panda Vape Shop. The storefront, the first in Winnipeg dedicated to selling e-cigarettes and nicotine juice, opened last week. SHANE GIBSON/METRO

Man. polar bear snapshot wins $10K prize

The newest additions to Assiniboine Park Zoo, Aurora and Kaska, didn't make the modelling cut, but a wild polar bear from Northern Manitoba did.

A photo, called The Ice Bear, of a polar bear surfacing in Hudson Bay took home the grand prize in National Geographic's 2013 photo contest. The winning photographer, Paul Souders from Seattle, Wash., spent 12 to 14 hours a day for two full weeks out on the waters surrounding Churchill.

"Out of two weeks, and only two bears, there was just one minute where there was this magical moment, just a couple of seconds when she was under, and I got the shot I never even expected," said Souders.

Souders didn't know exactly how great the shot was until he was going through his photographs on the train back to Thompson from Churchill.

"I was like the crazy guy on the train, showing everyone my vacation pictures," he said. "But they were Canadians, so they were really nice about it."

Souders added that looking at the photo for the first time gave him what felt like an electric shock, and that he believes this is the best photo he has ever captured, and ever will capture.

The Ice Bear helped Souders win the $10,000 US prize, and a trip to National Geographic's headquarters in Washington, D.C. National Geographic reportedly received more than 7,000 submissions from over 150 different countries for the contest. A shot of an arctic fox, taken by National Geographic photographer Norbert Rosing in Churchill, made the magazine's top 50 travel pics of 2013 list. For the polar bear photo and more from Souders, see page 11. ZACH PETERS/METRO

METRO CUSTOM PUBLISHING

Transit Tuesday

Weekly Transit News Update

NEW FARES IN EFFECT JANUARY

New Transit and Handi-Transit fares go into effect on Wednesday, January 1, 2014. Winnipeg Transit continues to offer reduced fares to seniors and qualifying students.

Full Fare 2014

- Cash $2.55
- Ticket $2.20
- Max 5 Pass $19.80
- SuperPass $22.00
- Monthly Pass $84.70

For complete transit fare information, including pass and ticket sales locations, please visit winnipegtransit.com or call 311.

FREE RIDE ON NYE

Celebrate safely this New Year's Eve! Starting at 8 p.m. on December 31, take a free ride on Winnipeg Transit or Handi-Transit, courtesy of Manitoba Public Insurance. Visit winnipegtransit.com for details.

Take a

FREE RIDE

New Year's Eve.

Celebrate safely.

Effective from 8 p.m. until end of service

Manitoba Public Insurance

Mayor Sam Katz said his decision to run for re-election will be "100 per cent" based on his family's priorities. ZACH PETERS/METRO

'A lot of feathers' in 2013: Mayor Sam Katz

Summer decision.
Katz says term depends on his wife, family

Nearing a decade in office, Mayor Sam Katz said he's learned to "deal with the slings and arrows" that come with holding the highest municipal post.

In the 2012 year-end interview with Katz, he mentioned a friend's quote about life; that sometimes you get chickens and sometimes you get feathers.

So how was Katz's 2013?

"More chickens than feathers, but definitely a lot of feathers, no question about that," said Katz, then listed off the three City of Winnipeg CEOs he has worked with during his mandates, including Phil Sheegl, who resigned in October.

"Stability is always a good thing, but things happen and you have to play the cards that you're dealt."

Sheegl's resignation came in the midst of the fire hall audit, which found that the project went over budget, was mismanaged, lacked adequate oversight, saw favouritism, and did not follow City of Winnipeg policies and procedures.

On the heels of the audit came news that another project, the Winnipeg Police downtown headquarters, would also be over budget. City council voted on Dec. 11 in favour of another $17.2 million for the project, which had a guaranteed maximum price of $193.57 million, putting the price tag at $210 million. As to how these scuttlebutts will factor into next year's civic election, Katz said his decision will instead be based "100 per cent" on his wife Leah and family.

Katz said when he first ran for office, he had an advantage in that his daughters were very young and could not yet read.

"Now that's no longer the case, they both can read, the oldest Ava, she reads and she definitely asks me questions," said Katz, adding he won't make his decision before next summer.

"She'll say 'Daddy, why did so-and-so say this,' and I sit down and talk to her, and I explain to her what happens at city hall."

BERNICE PONTANILLA/METRO

On the roads

CAA will be busy over the holidays

CAA Manitoba is expecting 4,700 calls for roadside assistance from Dec. 23 to Jan. 3.

CAA spokesperson Liz Peters said many of the issues they get calls for could be avoided with regular vehicle maintenance before going out on the road. "Being stranded on the side of the road can quickly dampen your holiday spirit," she added.

CAA attempts to resolve all car issues on the go, but said they are still expecting to tow 1,200 cars to garages over the next two weeks.

METRO

Door crasher special?

A crash at the corner of River Avenue and Osborne Street Monday sent a car into the front door of an iconic Osborne Village restaurant currently undergoing renovations. Two vehicles crashed at the intersection around 9:30 a.m., sending one up and over the sidewalk and into the front doors of the former Papa George's restaurant, set to become a restaurant and bar owned by the current owners of The Grove. There was no immediate word on injuries from police, but the owner of the restaurant said officers had told him no one was seriously injured.

SHANE GIBSON/METRO

OUR BOXING WEEK SALE HAS ARRIVED.

Save $70

$29.99* Samsung Galaxy S4™
Regular price $99.99

Save $49.99

$0* Samsung Galaxy S4 Mini
Regular price $49.99

Save $110

$49.99* BlackBerry® Z30
Regular price $159.99

Save $100

$149.99* Samsung Galaxy Note 3™
Regular price $249.99

The sale you've waited all year for.
Only at your MTS Connect store.

MTS®

* Hardware pricing only available with a minimum 24 month contract and minimum $45.00/mth Voice and Data plan on the Samsung Galaxy Note 3, Samsung Galaxy S4, Samsung Galaxy S4 Mini, and BlackBerry Z30 smartphones. Conditions apply. While quantities last. Limited time offer and subject to change. See MTS Connect store for details. Samsung Galaxy S4, Samsung Galaxy S4 Mini, and Samsung Galaxy Note 3 images © 2013 Samsung Electronics Canada Inc. All rights reserved. Samsung is a registered trademark and Samsung Galaxy S4 and Samsung Galaxy Note 3 are trademarks of Samsung Electronics Co., Ltd., used with permission. Screen images simulated. BlackBerry® is the property of BlackBerry Limited and is registered and/or used in the U.S. and countries around the world. Used under license from BlackBerry Limited. MTS design mark is a registered trade-mark of Manitoba Telecom Services Inc., used under license.

Premier Greg Selinger says there are no plans for major tax increases next year. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Selinger says no more tax hikes, plans to run in '16

Budget 2013. Since gov't raised sales tax, opinion polls suggest NDP has dropped to its lowest level of support since 1999

After imposing big tax hikes in 2012 and 2013 and paying a price for it in opinion polls, Premier Greg Selinger is indicating taxpayers will not take another hit in the coming year.

"We have no major tax increases planned for the budget," Selinger said.

The premier's wording appears to leave the door open to smaller tax hikes. The NDP government has regularly raised tobacco taxes on budget day and has raised the fuel tax and many user fees on occasion.

Prompted by a slower-than-expected economic recovery, the government expanded the PST in the 2012 budget to cover new items such as manicures, tattoos and many types of insurance.

The 2013 budget saw the government raise the overall sales tax to eight per cent from seven. It also suspended a section of the balanced-budget law that required a referendum before any sales tax increase.

Since then, opinion polls have suggested the NDP has dropped to its lowest level of support since sweeping to power in 1999 and is now well back of the Opposition Progressive Conservatives.

Asked whether other government entities such as the liquor corporation might be put into private hands, Selinger said no.

"No plans to privatize liquor. We have very good people that work in the operations that provide good service to the public and a strong emphasis on social responsibility to make sure that people are protected from some of the dangers of overconsumption of alcohol."

The next election is expected in the spring of 2016.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Museum not built for critics, it's built for dialogue: Murray

Stuart Murray said he's going to feel like a kid on Christmas morning this coming September when the Canadian Museum for Human Rights officially opens.

For the past four years, the museum's CEO and president has seen and photographed the sunrise over the construction site from his Main Street office.

"I've looked out the window and I've watched this building come out of the ground, and now that the base building is all finished, of course our work is now on the inside," said Murray during an interview with Metro.

The $351-million Canadian Museum for Human Rights at The Forks will have taken nearly five years to complete when it opens; the shovels hit the ground in the spring of 2009.

The building, designed by renowned architect Antoine Predock, includes 47,000 square feet of exhibit space and features the Tower of Hope, the 23-storey glass structure overlooking the city.

However, the museum hasn't been without controversy over its cost and what will be included inside.

Murray believes it is the educational aspect of the museum that will win over the hearts of Winnipeggers.

"The critics of this project from Day 1 have already written their letters to the editor, that's not going to change," said Murray, adding the museum's goal is to create dialogue.

"But I think what's important to understand is that we're not building this for those critics, we're building this for families, for students, for people to come in who are interested in learning what human rights are."

The museum has already won the hearts of professional athletes, including Winnipeg Jets, and celebrities who've visited the city, such as Star Trek's George Takei this past September.

"He signed my helmet, I got him to autograph my hard hat," Murray said with a big smile, adding that all of them have articulated the "hope that Manitobans and Canadians and Winnipeggers will understand how spectacular this place is.

"Sometimes it takes someone from the outside to remind you of what you've got."

BERNICE PONTANILLA/METRO

Stuart Murray, president and CEO of the Canadian Museum for Human Rights, said now that the building is finished, they're shifting their focus to the inside. ZACH PETERS/FOR METRO

UPGRADING THIS HOLIDAY? YOU'LL ALWAYS GET THE BEST PRICE WITH ROGERS.

NO NEED TO SHOP AROUND WITH ROGERS PRICE MATCH.

WE'LL MATCH ANY PRICE OUT THERE.
ON NATIONALLY ADVERTISED SAME DEVICE ON LIKE TERMS

EXCLUSIVELY FOR
ROGERS CUSTOMERS.*

ROGERS **FREEDOM** ADVANTAGE

DATA SHARING
PRICE MATCH
UPGRADE ANYTIME
FREE PLAN CHANGES
WITHIN TIER

CALL 1 888 ROGERS1
CLICK rogers.com/PriceMatch
VISIT your local Rogers store today

LIVE LIKE NEVER BEFORE™

ROGERS™

*Conditions apply. See rogers.com/pricematch for full program terms. ©2013 Rogers Communications.

Don's Photo
Let's talk photography.
BOXING DAY SALE
www.donsphoto.com
FREE TRIPOD WITH ANY NIKON DSLR PURCHASE!
DON'S PHOTO'S 9 CENT SALE!
4x6 PRINTS FOR ONLY 9 CENTS!
Dec 26 - Dec 31
Valid for orders submitted on Super DOPS, DOPS (the original) or via Kiosk from digital files for regular photographic prints (not instant 4x6's) between December 26th and December 31st. Please allow 5 business days to complete all orders.
Canon
EOS REBEL T3I THREE LENS BUNDLE
ONLY $699.99!
BUNDLE INCLUDES: Canon EOS Rebel T3i DSLR camera, 18-55 and 75-300 mm lenses, Canon EF 50mm 1.8 lens, and Optex DT52 Aluminum Tripod.
SAVE $265!
SANDISK EXTREME PLUS
SDHC UHS-1 80MB/S 533X
16GB - ONLY $34.99 - SAVE $15!
32GB - ONLY $54.99 - SAVE $25!
Nikon
COOLPIX AW110
AVAILABLE IN BLUE, ORANGE AND CAMO!
ONLY $239.99 SAVE $90!
Canon
BUY A CANON EOS T5I AND RECEIVE A FREE CANON 50MM 1.8 LENS!
Nikon
NIKON 1 S1
11-27.5mm VR KIT
ONLY $149.99!
ONLY 3 PER STORE
Nikon
D3200 18-55 VR WITH BAG & ENEL14/52MM FILTER
ONLY $549.99 SAVE $150!
SONY
A3000 WITH 18-55 MM LENS
ONLY $299 - SAVE $100!
Canon
EOS 6D 24-105 F4 IS USM KIT
COMES WITH A FREE CANON 8G ACCESSORY KIT!
ONLY $2199.99 - SAVE $480!
Canon
POWERSHOT S110
ONLY $249.99!
COMES WITH FREE CASE!
BELOW COST!
Nikon
D7100 WITH 18-140MM F3.5-5.6G ED VR KIT
ONLY $1229.99 - SAVE $270!
40% OFF
ALL IN-STOCK FRAMES
ALL IN-STOCK TAMRON LENSES ON SALE
SAVE UP TO $170!
20% OFF
ALL IN-STOCK HOYA FILTERS
Lowepro
ALL LOWEPRO BAGS UP TO 40% OFF!
Winnipeg Locations - 418 Portage Ave. (204) 942-3143 • 1839 Main St. (204) 942-7887 • 31-845 Dakota St. (204) 254-9875

Pussy Riot is free, but say it's not a victory

'This is a hoax and a PR move.' Band members say their release is a 'cosmetic measure,' call for ban on Olympics

Nadezhda Tolokonnikova, the third member of Russian punk bank Pussy Riot to be released from custody following an amnesty law passed by parliament, leaves prison in Krasnoyarsk, Russia, on Monday. TATYANA VISHNEVSKAYA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Two members of the Russian punk band Pussy Riot walked free Monday, criticizing the amnesty measure that released them as a publicity stunt, with one calling for a boycott of the Winter Olympics to protest Russia's human rights record.

Maria Alekhina and Nadezhda Tolokonnikova were granted amnesty last week in a move largely viewed as the Kremlin's attempt to soothe criticism of Russia's human rights record before the Games in Sochi in February.

"I'm calling for a boycott of the Olympic Games," Tolokonnikova said. "What is happening today — releasing people just a few months before their term expires — is a cosmetic measure."

Another member of the band, Yekaterina Samutsevich, was previously released on a suspended sentence. All three were found guilty of hooliganism motivated by religious hatred and sentenced to two years in prison for a guerrilla performance at Moscow's main cathedral in March 2012.

The band members said their protest was meant to highlight their concern about increasingly close ties between the state and the church.

Russia's parliament passed the amnesty bill last week, allowing the release of thousands of inmates. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Reputed Montreal mob boss Rizzuto is dead

Vito Rizzuto, the reputed head of the Montreal Mafia who built a powerful criminal organization with international tentacles, died in hospital Monday.

Rizzuto, 67, passed away of natural causes, said Maude Hebert-Chaput of Montreal's Sacre-Coeur Hospital.

His death raises questions about the future of the Rizzuto clan's decades-old empire, which was crippled by his 2006 extradition to the United States.

Rizzuto was arrested by Canadian authorities in 2004 and extradited two years later to the U.S., where he was convicted for his role in the 1981 murder of three Bonanno crime-family members in New York City.

He was sentenced to 10 years in prison, minus time served while awaiting extradition.

Following his October 2012 release, Rizzuto returned to Canada to a group of family and friends whose ranks had thinned considerably. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Vito Rizzuto
THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

Hydro crews work around the clock to get lights on

Ice storm. Hundreds of thousands in Ontario, Quebec and New Brunswick may still be without power on Christmas Day

A nasty ice storm that left hundreds of thousands without power in Ontario and Quebec tracked through the Maritimes on Monday as authorities worked frantically to clear tree-strewn roadways, restore downed hydro lines and get stranded travellers to their destinations.

Hydro companies in the Greater Toronto Area — which appeared to be the hardest hit by the weather system — warned some residents to brace for the possibility of being without power until Boxing Day or later.

Some neighbourhoods resembled crime scenes with yellow police tape used to cordon off areas where electric wires or large trees had come crashing down over the weekend. Sidewalks around some high rise buildings were also closed off due to the risk of falling ice.

Meanwhile, travellers trying to get home for the holidays continued to face delays and cancellations on airlines and trains.

Environment Canada said the storm had hit Eastern Canada hard. "It was a mighty blow," said senior climatologist David Phillips.

The weather agency said the system had turned particularly vicious thanks to a combination of warm air from Texas colliding with cold air over Canada to create a drawn-out period of freezing rain.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

A crew subcontracted to assist with restoring power following the ice storm in Toronto works on a power line on Monday. MATTHEW SHERWOOD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Power outages

- Though some 215,000 customers in the Greater Toronto Area were still without power, Toronto Mayor Rob Ford insisted Monday that Canada's largest city was not in a state of emergency.
- Elsewhere in Ontario, Power Stream, which serves Markham, Richmond Hill and Vaughan among other communities, reported 16,300 customers were still down.
- Meanwhile, Hydro One — which serves Ontario communities that include Guelph, Peterborough and Walkerton — said more than 112,000 customers were still without power.
- In Quebec, nearly 45,000 customers remained without power, largely in the province's Eastern Townships.
- In New Brunswick, NB Power said more than 21,000 customers were without power.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

JONES NEW YORK
DOOR CRASHERS STARTING FROM $10
BOXING DAY
SAVE 70% OFF
ON EVERYTHING IN THE STORE!*
2 DAYS ONLY! DECEMBER 26TH-27TH
WINNIPEG | 1659 KENASTON BLVD, WINNIPEG, MB, R3P 2M4 | 204.487.2888
*Applies to the original price. Some restrictions may apply. See in store for details.

Smartphone wars: Apple inks deal with China Mobile

Fight. As iPhone loses ground to cheaper competitors, tech giant battles back, teaming up with world's largest phone company

A woman using a phone walks past Apple's logo near its retail outlet in Beijing Monday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Apple's stock rose 3 per cent in morning trading on Monday, a day after the company announced a long-anticipated agreement to bring the iPhone to China Mobile, the world's biggest phone company.

The deal has the potential to boost iPhone sales in a market where Apple Inc. faces intense competition. But even with China Mobile Ltd.'s vast state-owned network, marketing power and more than 750 million mobile accounts, the iPhone has enormous challenges to overcome in the world's most populous nation.

Apple's smartphone is already available in China through two smaller carriers, and although it is popular with well-heeled Chinese customers, the iPhone is losing market share to lower-priced smartphones from Samsung and local brands.

The iPhone 5S and 5C will go on sale in Apple and China Mobile stores beginning Friday, Jan. 17. China Mobile customers can register for phones starting Wednesday.

The companies didn't announce pricing or the terms of the agreement.

The deal comes a month before China's Lunar New Year holiday in late January, a big gift-buying season. That "will provide an immediate boost to Apple's share in China," said analyst Nicole Peng of Canalys, a research firm.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Above, Blake as a happy 7 year-old.
Now you know where homeless adults can come from.

{ Blake, currently homeless }

HOMELESSNESS CAN HAPPEN TO ANYONE. VISIT RAISING THE ROOF.ORG TO HELP. RAISING THE ROOF

Joy and shopping in Las Vegas

Brothers Joaquin, left, and Sebastian visit with the Red Queen during the third-annual Winter in Venice event at the Venetian hotel-casino on the Las Vegas Strip Dec. 5. Las Vegas casinos have begun staging elaborate Christmas events in recent years to attract tourists during the slow winter months. HANNAH DREIER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mikhail Kalashnikov. Designer of AK-47 assault rifle dies at 94

Mikhail Kalashnikov started out wanting to make farm equipment, but the harvest he reaped was one of blood as the designer of the AK-47 assault rifle, the world's most popular firearm.

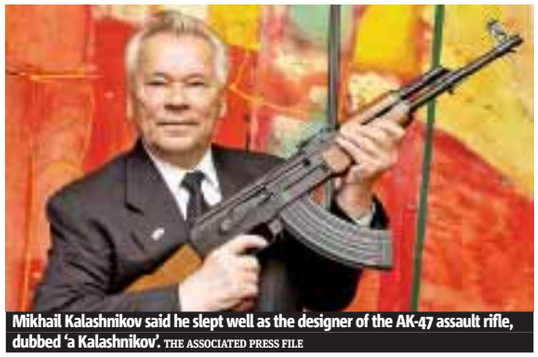
It was the carnage of World War, when Nazi Germany overran much of the Soviet Union, which altered his course and made his name as well-known for bloodshed as Smith, Wesson and Colt. The distinctive shape of the gun, often called "a Kalashnikov," appeared on revolutionary flags and adorns memorabilia.

Kalashnikov died Monday at age 94 in a hospital in Izhevsk, the capital of the Udmurtia republic where he lived, said Viktor Chulkov, a spokesman for the republic's president. He did not give a cause of death. Kalashnikov had been hospitalized for the past month with unspecified health problems.

Kaslashnikov often said he felt personally untroubled by his contribution to bloodshed.

"I sleep well. It's the politicians who are to blame for failing to come to an agreement and resorting to violence," he told The Associated Press in 2007.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Mikhail Kalashnikov said he slept well as the designer of the AK-47 assault rifle, dubbed 'a Kalashnikov'. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Correction Notice for MCC Furniture

MCC FURNITURE THRIFT STORE *Sale of the Season* MCC FURNITURE THRIFT STORE

December 23rd ad reads: "*25% to 50% Off All Inventory from December 27th - January 31st.*"

Actual sale dates are from December 27th to December 31st. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause you.

Same as Oct. 2012

October federal deficit totals $2.5B

The federal government ran a deficit of $2.5 billion in October, unchanged from the same month last year.

The monthly fiscal monitor said Monday that the federal government's revenue slipped by $100 million as an increase in personal income tax and other sources was offset by lower revenue from corporate taxes and the GST.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Montreal company Cinar

Animator wins copyright case

The Supreme Court of Canada ruled Friday in favour of a Montreal animator in his long-running battle over copyright infringement.

Claude Robinson had already won at the Quebec Court of Appeal, which ruled that the Montreal company, Cinar, had essentially copied his idea for a children's television show.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Bordeaux vineyard

Chinese tycoon, son die in copter crash in France

A Chinese businessman, his 12-year-old son and two other people died in a helicopter crash as they toured Bordeaux vineyards he had recently purchased, French authorities said Monday.

Lam Kok, who headed Hong Kong-based company Brilliant Group, drew attention in the French media when he bought the chateau, one of a string of Chinese purchases of French vineyards in recent years. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Market Minute

DOLLAR 94.24¢ (+ 0.33¢)

TSX 13,447.70 (+ 48.10)

OIL $98.91 US (- $0. 41)

GOLD $1,197 US (- $6.70)

Natural gas: $4.48 US (- 0.01)
Dow Jones: 16,294.61 (+ 73.47)

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, CHRISTMAS BABY

SHE SAYS

Jessica Napier
metronews.ca

I'm going to take a moment to abuse my power as a newspaper columnist and send a very Happy Birthday shout-out to my boyfriend. Yes, my poor significant other has a dreaded Christmas Eve birthday. Even his name — Christopher — echoes the omnipresent holiday that falls on his special day.

Often overlooked and forgotten during the busy holiday season, he has quite a few childhood stories of birthdays spent alone at the ice rink and forced "half-birthday" celebrations in June that always seemed a bit lackluster.

He is not alone in his misery. Many Capricorn babies are quite vocal about their ill-timed birthdates and the dreaded Birthday-Christmas combo gifts. Why is it that a joint gift would be a complete outrage for an individual born in June but it's totally justifiable for anyone afflicted with a December 25th adjacent birthdate?

There are even parenting blogs dedicated to helping couples avoid conceiving a baby with a holiday due date. In case you're wondering, it's best to avoid the bedroom around the end of March if you want to skip a Christmastime delivery.

I am blessed with a mid-August birthday which always meant pool parties with friends and sun-kissed picnics in the park. I recognize how fortunate I am — I have never received a tree ornament as a birthday gift — and as such, I believe that all late December babies are fully entitled to their self-righteous whining. Sulk away Christmas babies! Because regardless of whether or not you choose to celebrate, this eternally merry and bright holiday is impossible to ignore.

Competing with Christmas is not an option and so yuletide birthdays will inevitably become an afterthought. Birthday gifts are wrapped in snowman-print paper, tinsel garlands adorn the hallways instead of balloons and banners, and an abundance of gingerbread cookies and candy canes are placed around the house so that requesting an actual birthday cake seems out of the question.

Worse still is the absence of people willing and available to celebrate your special day. Absentee friends are out of town or suffering from holiday party fatigue. Even those high school acquaintances you never speak to are too distracted to remember to leave an obligatory 'Happy Birthday' Facebook wall post.

Of course there are some perks: Everyone is already in a celebratory mood, you'll probably have the day off work or school, and you'll be surrounded by all of your family (this may or may not be a good thing). If you're very lucky, perhaps some sympathetic friends and family will try to overcompensate with some extra special attention.

But perhaps we can all take a little time this holiday season to do our part to make the neglected birthday boys and girls feel extra special. And please, no combo gifts.

Follow Jessica Napier on Twitter @MetroSheSays

ZOOM

Photog captures icy bear stare

COURTESY PAUL SOUDERS/NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC PHOTO CONTEST

Polar bear pic wins top award

An eerie picture of a polar bear lurking beneath melting sea ice has won the grand prize of the 2013 National Geographic Photo Contest.

Seattle-based photographer Paul Souders captured this striking image last year in Hudson Bay, as the setting midnight sun glowed red from the smoke of distant fires. METRO

Q and A

'Hasn't been done before'

PAUL SOUDERS
Wildlife and travel photographer, 52, based in Seattle, Wash.

How did this photograph come about?
In July last year, I travelled to Churchill, Man., and in my inflatable zodiac boat I found one bear. She swam up to an iceberg, ducked under and stayed underwater for several seconds. She hung there, just below the surface, watching me, then came up for another breath before swimming away.

The polar bear looks pensive yet menacing. How does she seem to you?
It's so spooky, knowing that the bear was peering back at me, so watchful and curious. It really feels like a moment of communion and trust for me.

Why do you think it caught the judges' eyes?
It's pretty tough to create a picture that hasn't been done before, and I think maybe this is one of them.

Clickbait

LUKE SIMCOE
Metro Online

ISTOCKIMAGES

Maybe you want to save the environment. Maybe you just want to save time. Or maybe it's Christmas Eve and you forgot to send your mother a card. No matter your reason, Metro has you covered with a few ways to use social media as a substitute for a holiday card.

Facebook:
The world's most popular social media site is actually pretty full-featured when it comes to disseminating holiday cheer. You can craft a simple status update, tag your friends and family in a post, or upload and share a Christmas-themed photo album.

Instaquote:
Available for both iOS and Android, this simple app lets you superimpose text onto Instagram shots. Grandma is sure to love a selfie captioned with "Season's Greetings!"

Touchnote.com:
If you just can't go without the tactile sensation of a tacky Christmas card, consider Touchnote. The site lets you make a card using their online editor and then actually mails it for you to. No more licking stamps!

Comments

RE: Nova Scotia Still Bucking Boxing Day Trend By Keeping Stores Closed On Dec. 26, published online Dec. 23

A government shouldn't even have any say on when a business can open or not. We live in a free country.
Mythos88 posted to metronews.ca

Good for N.S. and let's keep it up. Retail workers already get so few real holiday days (because most so called 'holidays' only benefit students/teachers and certain government workers) to spend with their families, now heaven forbid greedy people might have to, gasp, wait two days to buy their Boxing Day sales items!
Jillian posted to metronews.ca

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU: Send us your comments: winnipegletters@metronews.ca

metro
President Bill McDonald • **Vice-President & Group Publisher, Metro Western Canada** Steve Shrout • **Editor-in-Chief** Charlotte Empey • **Deputy Editor** Fernando Carneiro • **National Deputy Editor, Digital** Quin Parker • **Managing Editor, Winnipeg** Elisha Dacey • **Managing Editor, News & Business** Amber Shortt • **Managing Editor, Life & Entertainment** Dean Lisk • **Sales Manager** Alison Zulyniak • **Distribution Manager:** Rod Chivers • **Vice-President, Sales and Business Ventures** Tracy Day • **Vice-President, Creative** Jeff Smith • **Vice-President, Finance** Phil Jameson **METRO WINNIPEG** 161 Portage Ave E Suite 200 Winnipeg MB R3B 2L6 • **Telephone:** 204-943-9300 • **Fax:** 888-846-0894 • **Advertising:** 204-943-9300 • adinfowinnipeg@metronews.ca • **Distribution:** winnipeg_distribution@metronews.ca • **News tips:** winnipeg@metronews.ca • **Letters to the Editor:** winnipegletters@metronews.ca

Bruce Willis wallops the legacy of John McClane for a quick paycheque in A Good Way to Die Hard. CONTRIBUTED

The worst of film in 2013

Forgettable fare. In a year of great films, there were still plenty of stinkers

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News in Hollywood

Yesterday we looked at some of the best films of 2013. Today, to balance out that bright note, we look at some of the dark spots of 2014.

Man of Steel
While there may have been many technically worse films this year, Zack Snyder's bombastic, tone-deaf update on Superman fails on a spectacularly higher level. Consider it a weighted grade. Moralizing, wanton destruction and clumsy product placement are a tough mix.

A Good Way to Die Hard
Bruce Willis further tarnishes the legacy of John McClane with this loud and un-fun entry that's a Die Hard film in name only. Maybe he's squinting the whole time because he can't bear to look at what he's creating.

Safe Haven
Romance-loving audiences deserve better than this poorly executed dreck from the mind of bestseller Nicholas Sparks. From the wooden acting to the contrived plot to the limping pacing, this would've seemed bad as a Lifetime movie.

Free Birds
Kids' movies generally get more of a pass critically, but some things we can't let slide. Children deserve better than this odd, clumsy tale of turkeys stealing a time machine to change the menu at the first Thanksgiving.

The Last Stand
The kitschy 1980s action tropes that made Arnold Schwarzenegger a star just don't work anymore, as the former California governor painfully learned when no one showed up to see his first starring vehicle since returning to acting. Bizarre character actor Peter Stormare attempting a Texas accent almost makes it worth enduring. Almost.

The Host
There's a certain amount of satisfaction to be taken in watching Twilight guru Stephenie Meyer's attempt at a follow-up franchise crash and burn, but it's a shame it had to involve the lovely Saoirse Ronan. Still, she should come out of this fine.

Delivery Man
Listen, if Vince Vaughn isn't going to bother showing up for his films anymore, why should we? Paying to watch a haggard movie star sleepwalk through scenes doesn't sound like very much fun.

Stand Up Guys
Al Pacino and Christopher Walken as aging wiseguys felt like a throwback itself in all the wrong ways. And in a year dispiritingly full of signs of creeping chauvinism and misogyny, this was one of the worst offenders.

Romeo and Juliet
Julian Fellowes' take on Shakespeare's classic teens at least gave audiences a new appreciation for Baz Luhrmann.

Comedy

Grudge Match

Director. Peter Segal

Stars. Robert De Niro

Rocky or Raging Bull, who would prevail in a boxing match? That's the question asked in Grudge Match. Robert De Niro and Sylvester Stallone star as retired Pittsburgh boxers who get the chance to step back in the ring to settle a three decade old grudge and make "Kardashian sex tape" kind of money. This is a new story, occasionally funny and touching by times, but with lots of elements borrowed from other classic movies.

RICHARD CROUSE

Biography/Comedy

The Wolf of Wall Street

Director. Martin Scorsese

Stars. Leonardo DiCaprio

Set during Wall Street's cocaine and hookers era, The Wolf of Wall Street is based on real life brokers Jordan Belfort (Leonard DiCaprio) and Donnie Azoff (Jonah Hill), who snorted and scammed their way to the top, only to become the subject of an FBI investigation into financial corruption. With its fourth wall breaking narration, scandalous set pieces and absurd antics this is a wild cinematic experience.

RICHARD CROUSE

Biography/Drama

Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom

Director. Justin Chadwick

Stars. Idris Elba, Naomie Harris

Nelson Mandela's life is so astonishing even Hollywood cannot seem to bring its incredulity to life. Based on his autobiography, Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom attempts to cram the subject's lifetime battle against apartheid into 139 minutes and the result only dilutes the measure of the late South African President's story. It winds up more encyclopedic than epic.

STEVE GOW

Mandela. Film takes tough look at Winnie

As it runs down the life of late anti-apartheid leader Nelson Mandela, the new film Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom also heavily features his polarizing ex-wife, Winnie Madikizela-Mandela.

British actress Naomie Harris, who plays the scandal-plagued Madikizela-Mandela, says she thinks the South African activist "is misconstrued in a lot of ways" and the film "will help to address that."

"I'm not making excuses for any of the heinous things that Winnie is accused of, but I think what this film helps to do is to explain and bring greater understanding about why she became the woman that she became, which is really important," she said in an interview at September's Toronto International Film Festival.

"There's duality in her personality, because on the one hand, yes, she did advocate necklacing and these horrific things during the apartheid regime. But on the other hand, she is ... the woman who kept Mandela's name alive while he was in prison for 27 years. And really, if it wasn't for her doing that, then we might all have forgotten about Mandela. She also was so active with the youth, particularly in Soweto and the anti-apartheid movement there. (It) was a violent uprising largely, in Soweto, but it was also pivotal as well to dismantling apartheid."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

This girl was on fire through 2013

Entertainer of the year. Jennifer Lawrence is lady of the year for media types

The battle for AP entertainer of the year came down to the Girl on Fire and the Queen of Twerk.

Jennifer Lawrence edged out Miley Cyrus by one vote in The Associated Press' annual survey of its newspaper and broadcast members and subscribers for Entertainer of the Year.

There were 70 ballots submitted by U.S. editors and news directors. Voters were asked to consider who had the most influence on entertainment and culture in 2013.

Lawrence won 15 votes. Cyrus had 14. Netflix was a close third, earning 13 votes for altering the TV landscape with its on-demand format and hit original series.

But Lawrence — who started the year with an Academy Award for best actress, fueled a box-office franchise as The Hunger Games heroine Katniss Everdeen, and wrapped 2013 with a critically acclaimed performance in American Hustle that just earned Golden Globe and Screen Actors Guild Award nominations — charmed fans everywhere with her candid sincerity.

She was also a fashion darling — a muse for Dior — who made headlines with her pixie haircut. ("That was the weirdest thing that ever happened to me," she recently told Jon Stewart.)

Lawrence declined comment for this story.

The 23-year-old actress "is not only talented and beautiful, but comes off as incredibly intelligent, genuine, funny and well-spoken in her public appearances and interviews," writes Kristi Runyan of The Derrick and The News-Herald Newspapers in Oil City, Pa.

"It's refreshing to see a young woman not squandering her talent and success by succumbing to the temptations many do in Hollywood and who actively speaks about the ridiculous behaviour of some of her peers."

Speaking of ridiculous behaviour, Cyrus raised eyebrows throughout 2013 with her embrace of twerking, nudity and public pot smoking. The 21-year-old Wrecking Ball singer also made news with her pixie chop, but her breakup with fiancé Liam Hemsworth and highly sexualized (and scrutinized) performances made her water-cooler chatter all year. "She made the biggest splash, without comment on whether I thought it was a good thing," said Jim Turpin of KMPH-TV in Fresno, Calif.

Women have dominated the Entertainer of the Year contest.

Past titleholders include Adele, Lady Gaga, Tina Fey, Betty White and Taylor Swift. Stephen Colbert is the lone male winner in seven years of voting.

Netflix commanded votes for changing viewing habits (binge-watch Breaking Bad, anyone?) and challenging the traditional TV-release concept with its original series. The outlet eschewed typical TV pilots and released a season's worth of episodes at once of its acclaimed series House of Cards and Orange Is the New Black.

"In a divided entertainment landscape that includes the fans of pop princesses like Miley as well as high-minded devotees of cutting-edge filmmaking, Netflix is the one common denominator," said Sean Stangland of Paddock Publications in suburban Chicago.

The beloved, Emmy-winning series Breaking Bad was in fourth place with 10 votes. Justin Timberlake, whose year included a pair of albums and top-selling tours, seven Grammy nominations and two film roles, claimed fifth place.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jennifer Lawrence. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"It's refreshing to see a young woman not squandering her talent and success by succumbing to the temptations many do in Hollywood."

Kristi Runyan of The Derrick and The News-Herald Newspapers in Oil City, Pa. on Jennifer Lawrence

Attention Walmart shoppers, there's a Beyoncé in aisle four

The Queen Bey visited a Massachusetts Walmart before her Boston concert on Friday and spread some holiday cheer to the tune of $39,800.

The singer, who might be the only human alive (other than Yeezus, of course) rivaling Miley in the headline-making department, did a mic-check on a Tewskbury Walmart's PA system and announced that she would pay the first $50 of every customer's purchase.

Which, of course, is super nice. But also, what? What compelled Beyoncé (other than a top notch PR team who I'm sure gently suggested this might be a not-terrible stunt to pull) to casually drop by a Walmart in nowheresville, Mass., and pay for some last-minute holidays shoppers' layaway crap? I'm not saying it was a bad stunt, I'm just saying it's a random one.

Anyway, this is all to say that Beyoncé's image as one of the most likable (and that's saying a lot, because it's pretty easy to hate someone so fabulous) ladies in the biz isn't in danger of cracking anytime soon.

METRO

Twitter

@robdelaney
Just saw a Hasidic man & 2 Asian girls laugh at a dog knocking over a garbage can so don't even act like peace isn't possible guys.

@Brittanysnow
I bet cats really hate the fact that they can't hashtag #yolo

@RebelWilson
All this reminds me of when I got kicked out of an 'Open House' Pretty Woman style last weekend coz the broker thought I couldn't afford it

PNP
GAMES
YOUR SOURCE FOR VIDEO GAMES...
AND EVERYTHING IN BETWEEN!
STILL LOOKING FOR THE PERFECT GIFT?
STOP IN-STORE & GRAB A PNP GIFT CARD!
GET ONE TODAY!
915 McLeod Ave (204) 663-4436
2609 Portage Ave (204) 415-7968
160 Meadowood Drive (204) 255-7529

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

Holidays in Hollywood

Looks like Duck Dynasty won't be without a home

PAT HEALY
Metro World News

Aw, here's a heartwarming story just in time for the holidays. Thanks to Hunt Channel — a Christian television network that markets almost exclusively in reality shows about Bible-lovin', gun-totin' folks who kill defenseless creatures for sport — Duck Dynasty will not go homeless if A&E decides to drop it on its redneck butt.

A lot of people are calling for the network to pull the plug on Duck Dynasty — surprisingly one of the highest-rated reality shows of all time (proof, I think, of the rapid decline of our intelligence as a society thanks to the Internet and sexting and global warming or whatever) — after patriarch in charge Phil Robertson's recent eloquent musings on homosexuality. And, apparently, the other Duck Dynasty cast members are among those calling for the show to be yanked.

Robertson's brood of fellow people who like to make the duckies go bye-bye with the boom boom stick have his back, and have recently gone on record saying that they don't want to do the show without him.

Fortunately, the Hunt Channel is making it their business to ensure that they won't have to. A Christmas miracle!

According to a TMZ report, Hunt channel owner Merrill Sport thinks that A&E should "put on their big boy pants" and support the cast of Duck Dynasty for being the unapologetic bigots they are. Further, Sport is more than happy to put on his own pair of big kid trousers and air the show himself. Because, at Hunt Channel, he says, "we don't censor our personalities."

Meaning, I guess, Hunt Channel lets their people spit as much hateful bile as they want. First Amendment and whatnot. Give them liberty or give them death! (Give them either, I could care less. But first, maybe, give them some teeth and a world view that isn't rooted in ancient mythology or idiocy.)

Miley beckons us into her boudoir, but do we really want to be there?

Have you guys seen this clip that's going around from Miley's new music video for her song Adore You? If you haven't, because, I guess, you don't have a google alert set up for "Miley Cyrus" like I do, here's the relevant info: It features grainy, sex tape-esque footage of Miley, er, pleasuring herself. I guess we now have the answer to the age-old question "where does one in eternal pursuit of shock value and press go, after humping a foam finger while practically naked onstage?" But, OK, I don't hate this. Miley Cyrus is a next-level entertainer and whoever is handling her PR right now deserves a big, fat holiday bonus. MyCy (I'm still totally going with this, and don't understand why nobody else has picked this up) was the most-googled person of the year, which is pretty damn impressive considering where she started. Also, I'm sure there's an opportunity for a think piece on female empowerment and sexual freedom, etc, etc here. I'm not going to write it, I'm just saying there's a window here. **METRO**

Studio puts the brakes on Fast & Furious sequel in wake of tragedy

Universal Pictures has delayed the release of Fast & Furious 7 for almost a year following the death of star Paul Walker.

The studio announced Monday that the Fast & Furious sequel will be released in April 2015, instead of July next year. Shooting on the film was about halfway finished when the 40-year-old Walker died in a car crash outside of Los Angeles. Walker still will appear in the film, though Universal has not said exactly how it will handle his unfinished performance.

Co-star Vin Diesel first posted the news on Facebook, telling his fans that, "He'd want you to know first."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SONY
make.believe
forever is
in the details
Forever starts somewhere. The more you can capture, the more you'll have to cherish in the forever to come. That's why the size of your camera's sensor matters so much. No stolen glance, faint blush or slightest touch will ever be missed.
Introducing the Sony NEX-5T. Extraordinary sensor size. Ultra compact body.
The Power of Imaging BE MOVED
α
www.sony.ca/nex
®Sony make.believe and 'α' are registered trademarks of Sony Corporation.

Healthy highs and lows this year

In our look back at 2013: HIV cures, HIV scares and how a pet can save your life

MICHELLE CASTILLO
Metro World News

The next-gen condom couldn't have come sooner. THINKSTOCK

LOW: U.S. porn industry shuts down three times due to HIV scare

Debbie didn't do many people this year. Numerous HIV-positive test results in the U.S. porn industry forced a moratorium on production while all potentially infected performers were re-tested for the virus. Current regulations require porn stars to be tested every 14 days in the U.S., limiting the number of people who could be exposed. Still, this year's scares lead many to call for the use of condoms on set, which has led to much debate.

HIGH: The next-generation condom

No glove, no love may be the motto but many men, particularly in developing countries, remain adverse to the prophylactics. To encourage use, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation offered $100,000 to anyone that could come up with the next evolution of the male condom, with up to $1 million for additional research. Eleven ideas won the first-round funding, including a condom made out of bovine tendons or fish skin and a couple versions made out of a crystallized form of carbon called graphene that can conduct heat.

HIGH: Baby "cured" of HIV

While a cure for HIV and AIDS still remains elusive, doctors in Mississippi claimed to have eradicated the HIV virus from a baby by giving her a three-drug regiment within 30 hours of her birth. The mother of the child had not received any pre-natal treatment to prevent transmission, and a blood test had determined that the child was HIV positive at the time of birth. The child, who was two and a half years old at the time of the March announcement, no longer has any traces of the HIV virus in her blood.

HIGH: Face transplants

The practice of transplanting another person's face onto a patient has been around for a few years — and not just on Nip/Tuck.

This year, however, marked many improvements in the field.

Polish doctors claimed to complete the world's fastest face transplant — a 27-hour procedure just three weeks after the patient's accident.

Meanwhile, several patients in the U.S. who received facial transplants in 2012 were shown to have improved blood flow, more blood vessel pathways and improved facial sensation just one year later.

LOW: Emergency birth control doesn't work ... sometimes

European pharmaceutical regulators approved a warning label change that would alert users of Norlevo (levonorgestrel) that it loses potency for women over 165 pounds and does not work in women over 176 pounds. The morning-after pill is a form of emergency birth control that was supposed to prevent pregnancy within 72 hours after having unprotected sexual intercourse. However, with the weight limits, it seems many women may not be able to use it.

HIGH: A big year for ART

Across the world, more than 5 million screaming bundles of joy are born to people who may otherwise never have the experience of having a child without fertility treatments. The International Committee for the Monitoring of Assisted Reproductive Technology (ICMART), who announced the landmark number in October, noted that the first ART baby was born in 1978 using in vitro fertilization. However, more than half of the 5 million ART babies have been born in just the last six years, meaning the technology is improving.

HIGH: Get a pet, save your life

If you need another reason to convince yourself to get a pet, the American Heart Association confirmed what was once an old wives' tale: that having a pet was linked to lower heart disease, lower blood pressure, lower cholesterol levels and lower levels of obesity. Owning a dog was particularly shown to lower cardiovascular risk, maybe because dogs force you to get off your couch and walk them.

LOW: Heroin-like drug spreads overseas

For years, Russia has battled a problem with krokodil or desomorphine, an opioid drug in the same family as heroin and oxycodone. It is more potent than morphine, and is easily made with codeine, paint thinner, gasoline and other over-the-counter products. It also is so toxic that it causes flesh to rot off the user's bones, and the average abuser dies two to three years after beginning to use. Now, evidence shows the drug is spreading across the world, with the first cases reported in the U.S. in September.

Lean pork tenderloin gets a flavour boost from prosciutto, mushrooms and fresh herbs

My choice for an elegant holiday dinner? It's hard to beat a roast, and more often than not my pick is a lean and moist pork tenderloin.

But let's face it, as much as we want to be healthy, there is such a thing as roast that is too lean. A lack of fat often means a lack of flavour. So how to make up this deficit? With plenty of high-flavour ingredients such as prosciutto, fresh herbs, mushrooms and wine.

Prosciutto packs a ton of flavour, and the slight amount of fat it adds is well worth it. As for the herbs, I took a tip from the Italians, who often top off a grilled steak with fresh herbs and a drizzle of olive oil.

Double Pork Roast with Mushroom Marsala Sauce

This recipe serves six. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ingredients

- 2 pork tenderloin roasts (3/4 to 1 lb each), trimmed of all fat
- 2 tbsp packed fresh rosemary leaves, chopped
- 2 tbsp packed fresh thyme leaves, chopped
- 4 oz thinly sliced prosciutto
- 3 tbsp extra-virgin olive oil, divided
- Kosher salt and ground black pepper
- 1/2 cup finely chopped shallots or onion
- 1/2 lb mushrooms (cremini, white button, shiitake, oyster or a mix), trimmed and sliced
- 1/2 cup dry Marsala wine
- 1 1/4 cups low-sodium chicken broth
- 1 tbsp all-purpose flour

1. Heat the oven to 350 F. Cut down through each tenderloin lengthwise so that you can open it up like a book, but do not cut all the way through. Sprinkle water on the cutting board under the tenderloin and sprinkle a little water on top of the tenderloin (this will help prevent the meat from tearing when you pound it). Cover the tenderloin with plastic wrap and pound the meat using a meat mallet or rolling pin until it is about 1/2-inch thick.

2. Sprinkle half the rosemary and thyme leaves all over the inside of each butterflied and pounded pork tenderloin and spread the prosciutto evenly in one layer over the herbs. Beginning with the long end, roll up the tenderloin tightly, tucking in the ends (as you would a burrito). Use kitchen twine to tie the roll in a bundle, tying it every 2 inches.

3. In a large nonstick skillet over medium-high, heat 1 tablespoon of the oil. Season the pork lightly on all sides with salt and pepper, then add it to the skillet. Sear until golden brown on all sides. Transfer the pork to a shallow baking pan, then roast on the oven's middle shelf until the centre reaches 145 F, about 20 to 25 minutes. Remove the pork from the oven and cover loosely with foil.

4. Meanwhile, make the sauce. Return the skillet to medium heat. Add the remaining 2 tablespoons of oil and the shallots and cook, stirring, until the shallots are golden. Add the mushrooms and cook, stirring often, until the mushrooms give off all their liquid and are lightly browned.

5. Add the Marsala and simmer until almost all of it is reduced. Add 1 cup of the chicken broth and bring back to a boil. In a small bowl whisk the remaining 1/4 cup of chicken broth with the flour. Add the flour mixture to the skillet in a stream while whisking and simmer for 2 minutes. Add any juices that have accumulated from the resting pork to the sauce.

6. Slice the pork crosswise into 1-inch-thick slices. Transfer several slices to each of 6 serving plates. Spoon some of the mushroom sauce over each serving.

SARA MOULTON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dinner. 5-Grain Pilaf with Balsamic Mushrooms

This recipe serves six. PRESIDENT'S CHOICE

Ingredients

- 1 pkg (250 g) PC 5-Grain Blend
- 1 pkg (227 g) white button mushrooms
- 3 tbsp (45 ml) olive oil
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) balsamic vinegar
- 1 cup (250 ml) sliced shallots
- ½ cup (125 ml) finely diced carrots
- 1 large clove garlic, thinly sliced
- ½ cup (125 ml) chicken broth
- 1 tsp (5 ml) salt
- ½ tsp (2 ml) freshly ground black pepper
- ½ cup (125 ml) grated Parmigiano Reggiano
- ¼ cup (50 ml) chopped fresh parsley

1. Preheat oven to 425 F. Line rimmed baking sheet with foil. In saucepan, bring 8 cups (2 l) water to a boil. Add 5-grain blend. Return to a boil. Reduce heat to medium-high and cook, uncovered, for 10 minutes. Drain and set aside.

2. On prepared baking sheet, toss mushrooms with 1 tablespoon (15 ml) of the oil. Roast in centre of oven for 20 minutes. Toss with 2 teaspoons (10 ml) of the balsamic vinegar; return to oven and roast another 5 minutes. Set aside.

3. In large nonstick frying pan, heat remaining 2 tablespoons (25 ml) oil over medium-low heat; cook shallots, carrots and garlic for 4 to 6 minutes or until softened. Stir in drained 5-grain blend. Increase heat to high; cook for 5 minutes, stirring. Stir in chicken broth; cook for 2 minutes. Remove from heat.

4. Stir in salt, pepper and remaining 1 teaspoon (5 ml) balsamic vinegar. Stir in mushrooms, cheese and parsley.

PRESIDENT'S CHOICE

Pot roast that's fit for a feast

Holiday Pot Roast with Spiced Root Vegetables

This recipe serves 12. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ingredients

Roast

- 2 medium red onions, quartered
- 2 medium carrots, cut into pieces
- 3 stalks celery, cut into pieces
- 2 leeks, trimmed and sliced
- 2 tbsp olive oil
- 6- to 7-pound chuck roast
- Salt and ground black pepper
- 3 cups red wine
- 2 cups unsalted beef stock
- 1/4 cup tomato paste
- 2 tbsp Dijon mustard
- 3 bay leaves
- 3 sprigs fresh rosemary

Root vegetables

- 6 medium carrots, peeled and cut into 1-inch pieces
- 4 parsnips, peeled and cut into 1-inch pieces
- 2 medium red onions, cut into wedges
- 2 small celeriac roots, peeled and diced
- 2 lbs sweet potatoes, peeled and cut into 1-inch pieces
- 2 tbsp olive oil
- 1 tsp salt
- 1 tsp ground black pepper
- 1 tsp ground cumin
- 1 tsp ground coriander
- 1/2 tsp fennel seeds

1. Heat the oven to 350 F. In a food processor, combine the red onions, carrots, celery and leeks. Pulse until finely chopped, but not so finely that a paste is formed.

2. In a large Dutch oven or heavy bottomed large pot over medium, heat the olive oil. Add the onion-carrot mixture and cook, stirring occasionally, until golden brown, 12 to 15 minutes. Spoon the mixture out into a bowl.

3. Trim the chuck roast of any very large pieces of fat. Season the meat liberally with salt and black pepper. Increase the heat under the Dutch oven to high and add the meat. Sear on all sides until well browned, 3 to 4 minutes per side. Transfer the roast to a plate.

4. Add a bit of the red wine to the pot and scrape up any browned bits on the bottom. Return the browned vegetable mixture to the pot along with the rest of the red wine, beef stock, tomato paste, mustard, bay leaves, and rosemary. Stir well. Carefully return the roast to the pot, cover and place in the oven for 3 to 4 hours, or until very tender.

5. Meanwhile, prepare the roasted vegetables. In a large bowl, toss together the carrots, parsnips, onions, sunchokes and sweet potatoes. Drizzle with olive oil and toss to coat.

6. In a small bowl, mix together the salt, black pepper, cumin, coriander and fennel seed. Sprinkle over the vegetables and toss again. Spread onto a rimmed baking sheet. After the chuck has been roasting for 2 1/2 hours, add the vegetables to the oven. Roast, stirring occasionally, for 45 minutes to 1 hour, or until browned and tender.

7. When the chuck is finished cooking, remove the pot from the oven and transfer the roast to a plate. Cover with foil. Remove the rosemary and bay leaves from the pot and discard. Transfer the remaining contents to a blender and blend until smooth, making sure to use caution when blending the hot liquid. Return to the pot and bring to a boil. Simmer until reduced to about 5 cups, or gravy thickness. Serve with the roast and root vegetables.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Five steps to becoming a millionaire

Entrepreneurship. Kim Kaupe describes how to go it alone, even if you don't have start-up cash or a business background

Quoted

"If you have an idea, tell everyone you can. You never know who that person might know."

Kim Kaupe, co-founder of ZinePak

EMILY LAURENCE
Metro World News

Three years ago, 28-year-old Kim Kaupe quit her job to pursue a business idea she brainstormed with her co-founder. Now, she's the head of multi-million dollar company ZinePak. Like many people who have a gem of an idea, Kaupe didn't have a business background or any start-up money. Still, she went for it. Kaupe shares her tips with us so you can pursue your own great idea.

1. Find a hole in the marketplace

"I worked at Brides magazine for two years and then got a job at an ad agency. One of my co-workers at the agency used to work at Sony Records. We hatched this idea of putting magazines and music together, and out came ZinePak. We wanted to create special packages for fans. It was something that didn't exist before."

2. Partner with someone who has the strengths you lack

"My business partner and I fit together perfectly because one of us has the strengths that the other person doesn't. Find someone you gel with and shares your views, but also brings a unique perspective."

3. Tell everyone your idea

"There's this common misconception that when you come up with a great idea, you have to keep it to yourself because someone will steal it. It's really the opposite. If you have an idea, tell everyone you can. You never know who that person might know. Or, they could have a way for you to improve your idea that you haven't thought of. We changed our entire product based on a suggestion a random customer emailed us. It pays to listen — literally."

4. If you're not an expert, find people who are

"Neither my partner nor I had a background in business. Going to meet-ups was essential for growing our business. There are meet-ups for everything: small business owner meet-ups, tech meet-ups, entrepreneur meet-ups... When I first started out, I thought I was the only person in the world who faced certain problems. But chances are, most other entrepreneurs that you talk to have wanted to throw their Quickbooks out the window too and might have a great suggestion that can help you. Whatever you need to learn how to do that you can't Google, there's someone out there who can help you."

Kim Kaupe, co-founder of ZinePak, suggests attending small-business meetups and finding ways to keep your overhead low. CONTRIBUTED

5. Keep your overhead low

"The first year, my business partner and I worked from home using only our computers, cellphones and brains. It was just us hustling and cold calling, saying 'Let us make this awesome product for you.' The less supplies you have to buy, the more money you'll make. Think, do you really need a warehouse or paper printing machine? Chances are there's a company out there who it's cheaper to pay than renting space or buying all the materials yourself."

How to eat, drink and stay healthy this holiday

Pace yourself: try to have a glass of water for each glass of alcohol. ISTOCK

Seasonal hazards. Between overindulging and contracting colds, this time of year can take a toll on your vigor

The holidays are a time to burn your candles at both ends, but you have to be careful to not flame out. The pressure created by a combination of social events, family get-togethers, shopping and financial stress can easily weaken or overwhelm your immune system.

Eating

Make sure you neither eat too much, nor too little. Overindulging will not only put on a few extra holiday pounds, but makes you more likely to develop esophageal reflux from a distended stomach at bedtime. This overnight trickle of stomach acid bubbling up into the back of your throat while lying flat in bed can not only cause heartburn but may also lead to a sore throat or dry cough.

This is not only a nuisance that is often mistaken for an upper respiratory infection (common cold), but may actually increase your odds of getting a sinus infection or bronchitis by decreasing your resistance. Eating too little may make you more likely to get intoxicated, as the alcohol in a glass of holiday cheer is absorbed much more quickly from an empty stomach.

Drinking

With so many social obligations and reasons to celebrate, there is ample opportunity to drink alcohol on a daily basis — and lots of it. "Everything in moderation" should be your motto. Try to drink a glass of water with each alcoholic beverage (one for one). No matter your sex, weight or choice of adult beverage, if you have two or more drinks in under two hours, you will likely be impaired.

Don't drink and drive, and don't let your friends drink and drive. Work out a designated driver in advance with friends, take a taxi or public transportation and don't be afraid to ask if you can sleep over at your host's or friend's home if driving under the influence is your only other option. Drinking coffee will not sober you up.

Being healthy

The 2013-14 influenza season has officially arrived in North America and there are any variety of cold viruses around that have been making people miserable with sore throats, nasal congestion and coughs.

Shaking hands, kissing under the mistletoe and travelling on a plane can all spread illness rapidly. Get a flu shot, wash your hands frequently, keep your hands away from your face and blow kisses where you can. METRO

4 SPORTS

World juniors

Drouin, Horvat, McDavid help Canada top Swiss

Jonathan Drouin scored twice to lead Canada's national junior hockey squad to a 4-1 exhibition win over Switzerland on Monday.

It was the final tune-up for Canada, which opens the world junior tournament Thursday against Germany.

Canada finished with a 2-1 exhibition record but was coming off a 3-0 loss to Sweden on Sunday.

Bo Horvat and Connor McDavid had the other goals for Canada. Jake Paterson stopped 23 shots in goal. THE CANADIAN PRESS

CFL

Vega welcomed back by Bombers

Jason Vega is back with the Winnipeg Blue Bombers.

The six-foot-four, 255-pound defensive end re-signed with Winnipeg on Monday after spending this season in the NFL.

Vega was with the Bombers in 2011 and '12, appearing in 27 games. He registered 66 tackles, 12 sacks and a fumble recovery and added two tackles and a sack in Winnipeg's Grey Cup loss to B.C. in '11.

Vega, 26, spent this season with the New England Patriots and Dallas Cowboys of the NFL.

"Jason is a character guy with great athletic ability," Bombers' GM Kyle Walters said in a statement. "He is not only a great football player, but a real quality person and will be a welcomed addition to our locker room."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Hayley Wickenheiser signs autographs following the naming of the team that will compete in the 2014 Olympic Winter Games in Sochi, Russia, during a news conference in Calgary, Monday. JEFF MCINTOSH/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Less experience, more depth: Wickenheiser

Sochi 2014. National Olympic team roster finalized after coaching shakeup, player cuts

Canada's Olympic women's hockey team has less experience than two previous editions, but believes it has the speed and skill to defend the gold medal in Sochi, Russia.

The 21-player roster that will attempt to win a fourth consecutive Olympic gold in women's hockey was finalized Monday after the release of three players.

The 2014 squad includes a dozen players who beat the U.S. women 2-0 in the 2010 final in Vancouver. The 2010 and 2006 squads each carried over 14 players from the previous Winter Games.

The team

- **Goaltenders.** Shannon Szabados, Alta.; Genevieve Lacasse, Ont.; Charline Labonte, Que.
- **Defenceman.** Jocelyne Larocque, Man.; Lauriane Rougeau, Que.; Laura Fortino, Ont.; Meaghan Mikkelson, Alta.; Catherine Ward, Que.; Tara Watchorn, Ont.
- **Forwards.** Meghan Agosta-Marciano, Ont.; Rebecca Johnston, Ont.; Jennifer Wakefield, Ont.; Gillian Apps, Ont.; Caroline Ouellette, Que.; Melodie Daoust, Que.; Jayna Hefford, Ont.; Brianne Jenner, Ont.; Haley Irwin, Ont.; Hayley Wickenheiser, Sask.; Natalie Spooner, Ont.; Marie-Philip Poulin, Que.

"We're a little bit younger in the experience department," admitted forward Hayley Wickenheiser.

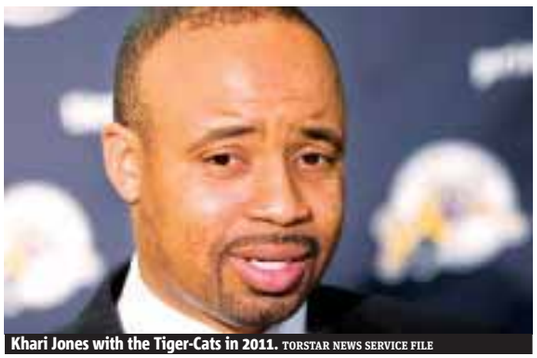
"We're very similar in the type of style we're going to play — a tight forechecking style and trying to counteract with a lot of speed. We have a little bit more offensive depth on the back end than in 2010 so we'll be counting on them to jump into the attack.

"Goaltending is as good or better. Maybe a little bit more depth overall."

Canada opens their gold-medal defence Feb. 8 against Switzerland. The final is Feb. 20 at the Bolshoy Ice Dome.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Jones goes from Riderville to B.C. Lions



Khari Jones with the Tiger-Cats in 2011. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

The B.C. Lions named Khari Jones as their new offensive co-ordinator Monday.

Jones joins the Lions after two seasons as the quarterbacks coach with the Grey Cup-champion Saskatchewan Roughriders.

"Khari is a young, fresh football mind that brings a key combination of significant playing and coaching experience to the role of offensive co-ordinator," Lions head coach Mike Benevides said in a statement. "After a number of conversations with Khari over the past couple of weeks, I am very excited about his positive approach to the game, the offensive concepts he will bring to our offence and how they will translate on the field.

Prior to joining the Riders, Jones served as Hamilton's offensive co-ordinator in 2011. Jones began his CFL coaching career as the Ticats' quarterbacks coach in '09.

Jones began his CFL playing career as a quarterback with the Lions in '97 before being dealt to Winnipeg in 2000. In 2001, Jones was named the league's outstanding player after guiding the Bombers to a 14-4 regular-season record.

Jones also played for Calgary (2004) and Hamilton (2005) and twice went to training camp with Edmonton before joining CBC's CFL broadcast crew in 2006.

"It's an honour to return to the same organization that gave me an opportunity to play in this great league many years ago," said Jones.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

ON TOP WHERE IT BELONGS

www.ajac.ca

2014 MAZDA3 SPORT
WINNER OF THE BEST NEW SMALL CAR
(OVER $21,000)

AUTOMOBILE JOURNALISTS
ASSOCIATION OF CANADA

allnewmazda3.ca #GAMECHANGER

ZOOM-ZOOM

AUTOMOBILE JOURNALISTS
ASSOCIATION OF CANADA

www.ajac.ca

2014 MAZDA 3
WINNER OF THE BEST NEW SMALL CAR
(UNDER $21,000)

ON TOP WHERE IT BELONGS

mazda

Buick Regal could rule the roads

ALL PHOTOS WHEELBASEMEDIA.COM

2014 Buick Regal. One step closer to being first choice over a Euro sedan instead of an alternative

MALCOLM GUNN
wheelbasemedia.com

The Euro-inspired, North America-built Buick Regal represents a significant shift in thinking for General Motors' entry-premium division.

Since its 2012-model-year arrival, the Regal has dared to challenge similar BMW, Mercedes-Benz and Audi offerings. It has also become a viable alternative for mid-size entry-luxury buyers, regardless of national origin. Along with the subsequent introduction of the smaller Verano sedan and even smaller Encore wagon, Buick has likely left the dwindling knot of traditional Buick buyers wondering what has become of their cherished brand.

Inside, the reshaped dashboard has a 4.2-inch (10.7 centimetre) display screen between the dual gauge pods that shows basic vehicle info. In addition, a new eight-inch (20-centimetre) touch screen for the climate, navigation, communications and infotainment systems can also be operated through steering-wheel controls.

Under the hood has been simplified. Previously, you could pick between the base turbo-charged 2.0-litre four-cylinder engine with 220 horsepower and 258-pound-feet of torque, and a version that made 270 horsepower and 270 pound-feet of torque (the GS model). Newly optional for turbo models is an all-wheel-drive system that in normal driving splits the torque equally between the front and rear tires, but can deploy up to 90 per cent to the rears when the front wheels start to lose traction. AWD is not offered for the optional (and non-turbo-charged) 2.4-litre four-cylinder engine that combines with a 15-horsepower electric motor and lithium-ion battery pack to make 182 horsepower and 172 pound-feet of torque.

The partial-hybrid system, called eAssist, controls the car's stop-start function to conserve fuel at stoplights and in stop-and-go traffic. The eAssist also kicks in when the Regal is accelerating, but unlike a "full hybrid" powertrain, the electric motor never operates independently of the gas engine. A six-speed automatic is the sole eAssist transmission choice.

The AWD option allows the Regal to keep up with the changing times and the competition, as does the availability of camera-based blind-spot warning and cross-traffic alerts, the latter of which points out traffic that's crossing into your back-up path. There's also forward-collision warning that lets you know when you're too close to traffic in front.

Regal shoppers can choose from base, Premium I, Premium II and GS models. For $34,800 (including destination charges), the base car arrives with a considerable load of gear, including dual-zone climate control, leather seat covers (heated in front), 12-way power driver's seat and an electric parking brake. Other items, such as a power sunroof, navigation with rear-vision camera and an up-level nine-speaker Bose-brand sound system, are added as you move up the trim levels.

At the GS plateau, the standard-equipment list encompasses unique front- and rear-end designs, aero side cladding and rear spoiler, and available 20-inch wheels (19-inchers are standard GS fare, while 17s come on eAssist models). GS models also arrive with larger Brembo-brand front brakes, sport suspension setup and a selectable GS sport mode that increases steering effort, firms up the shock damping and alters the transmission shift points for more spirited driving. Anyway you slice it, the Regal's broader appeal and competitive price tag places it in a closer league with its European and North American mid-size sedan rivals and is a real feather in Buick's cap.

2014 Buick Regal

- **Type.** Four-door, front- /all-wheel-drive mid-size sedan
- **Engines (hp).** 2.0-litre DOHC I4, turbocharged (259); 2.4-litre DOHC I4 (182)
- **Transmissions.** Six-speed automatic; six-speed manual (opt.)
- **Base price (incl. destination).** $34,800

Design

For the 2014 model year, the Regal receives mid-production cycle adjustments that begin with front and rear restyling, including a more prominent grille plus new front and rear LED lighting.

Fuel economy

For 2014, it's down to a single turbo engine pegged at 259 horsepower and a stout 295 pound-feet. It's rated at 10.1 l/100 km in the city and 6.6 on the highway with the six-speed automatic transmission, and 10.2/6.3 with the six-speed manual (available only with the GS).

The Buick's interface can change depending on what you want to know.

Compare

1 Acura TL
Base price: $42,000

2 Cadillac ATS
Base price: $37,000

3 Volvo S60
Base price: $40,850

The kids have spoken, Comet and Blitzen rule

Maritz Research survey. 1.2 billion children vote two reindeer best to lead Santa's sleigh this Xmas

AUTO PILOT
Mike Goetz
drive@metronews.ca

According to a survey that compiled the feedback of 1.2 billion children worldwide, Blitzen and Comet are equally qualified to lead Santa's sleigh on Christmas Eve.

The survey was conducted last year by Maritz Research.

Canadian-based Chris Travel, is the company's vice-president of strategic consulting for the firm's automotive sector practice, and routinely sends us lots of good information about the Canadian automotive scene through the company's many automotive-based consumer surveys and focus groups.

I always look forward to the accurate and timely studies Maritz provides, but I have to admit this one, which Maritz is calling the Reindeer Customer Satisfaction and Santa Support Survey, sounds a bit bogus.

How can you even contact 1.2 billion children worldwide without hearing about it on the major news organizations, like TMZ Live or eTalk Daily hosted by Ben Mulroney and Tanya Kim?

But we will give Maritz the benefit of doubt today because it's super timely with Christmas coming tomorrow, and I don't have time to dig deeper into the methodology (the malls close early today).

Before getting into the meat of the survey, Travel did have to clarify a couple of items ... "We did not include Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer, because of course Rudolph did not come along until 1939 when he was created by Robert L. May for the Montgomery Ward Catalogue.

"Nor did we include Chet the crazy reindeer from the 2002 Santa Clause II movie with Tim Allen ... Chet was so far out there it would have skewed our data."

So the kids were asked to comment only on the original eight reindeer, and give their personal opinion on how each would measure up for Santa on three important criteria.

On the first measure — reliability and dependability — Comet led all contenders with a 37 per cent approval score.

Maritz's automotive surveys usually ask about interior comfort, but for this study they substituted exterior comfort. Blitzen was top reindeer in this category.

Fun to drive is a very important criteria, noted Travel, "because that's the kind of guy that Santa is..." Comet topped the charts here, with a whopping 67 per cent score.

For the last criteria, fit and finish, Blitzen scored another overall win.

Frankly, I was surprised Vixen didn't do better in this category.

But when Maritz tallied everything, to come up with an overall winner, Blitzen and Comet were tied!

What to do?

"Because of this unprecedented situation, where we had two reindeer so evenly matched, we had to go to an independent panel of experts," said Travel, holding up a cast picture of the animated characters in the 1965 movie, Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer — you know, the one with Hermey, the dentist wannabe elf, and that weird abominable snowman known as The Bumble. (Are we to believe this is an actual panel of experts? My bogus meter is going on overdrive, but press on we must...)

"Based on their extensive deliberations, they decided, after many hours, that Blitzen is the reindeer, to lead Santa's sleigh," noted Travel.

He then thanked the "1.2 billion children who participated in our survey" and wished everyone the very best for the holiday season. I'll do the same.

The breakdown

- **Reindeer Customer Satisfaction Survey**

- **The categories:**
1) Reliability & Dependability
2) Fit & Finish
3) Exterior Comfort
4) Fun to Drive

- **Blitzen: 1)** 25.5% ... **2)** 37.0% ... **3)** 67.5% ... **4)** 20.5%
- **Comet:** ... 37% ... 25.5% ... 20.5% ... 67.5%
- **Prancer:** ... 17.5% ... 5.0% ... 0.5% ... 5.5%
- **Donner:** ... 6.0% ... 4.0% ... 5.5% ... 1.5%
- **Dasher:** ... 4.5% ... 2.5% ... 0.5% ... 1.5%
- **Cupid:** ... 4.0% ...12.0% ... 0.5% ... 1.0%
- **Dancer:** ... 3.5% ... 5.5% ... 3.0% ... 1.5%
- **Vixen:** 2.0% ... 7.5% ... 1.5% ... 1.5%

SOURCE: AUTOMOTIVE PRACTICE OF MARITZ RESEARCH; 1.2 BILLION SAMPLE SURVEY. RUDOLF AND CHET NOT PART OF SURVEY, DUE TO OVER-EXPOSURE, WHICH CAN SERIOUSLY SKEW DATA.

Endless JOY EVENT
THE GIFT YOU WON'T REGIFT.
AS LOW AS 0% APR▲ PURCHASE FINANCING
$500‡ HOLIDAY BONUS CASH FOR A LIMITED TIME
ON VIRTUALLY ALL OF OUR MOST POPULAR MODELS
HURRY IN! THIS HOLIDAY OFFER ENDS DECEMBER 29TH
OFFER INCLUDES $750 MANUFACTURER REBATE
2014 ESCAPE S
OWN FOR ONLY $135 @ 1.99% APR
PLUS $500 HOLIDAY BONUS CASH
Financed bi-weekly for 84 months with $0 down. Offer excludes freight and air tax.
WELL-EQUIPPED WITH:
6 Speed Selectshift® Automatic Transmission with Sport mode. Power Sideview Mirrors. MyKey®. Torque Vectoring Control AND MUCH MORE.
6.2L/100km 46MPG HWY 9.1L/100km 31MPG CITY**
OFFERS INCLUDE $9,250 MANUFACTURER REBATES
2013 F-150 SUPER CAB XLT 4X4 5.0L
CASH PURCHASE FOR ONLY $26,999* BEST-SELLING TRUCKS SERIES 47 YEARS
PLUS $500 HOLIDAY BONUS CASH
OR PURCHASE FINANCE FOR $198 @ 4.49% APR
Bi-weekly for 72 months with $0 down.
OR step up to a SuperCrew for only $20 more bi-weekly.
Offers exclude freight and air tax.
10.6L/100km 27MPG HWY 15.0L/100km 19MPG CITY**
WELL-EQUIPPED WITH:
17" Machined Aluminum Wheels. AdvanceTrac® with RSC®. Trailer Sway Control. Automatic Headlamps AND MUCH MORE.
2014 FUSION S
OWN FOR ONLY $135 @ 2.49% APR
PLUS $500 HOLIDAY BONUS CASH
Financed bi-weekly for 84 months with $0 down. Offer excludes freight and air tax.
WELL-EQUIPPED WITH:
Heated Mirrors. 17" Painted Alloy Wheels. Integrated Turn Signal Mirrors. Keyless Entry Keypad AND MUCH MORE.
5.8L/100km 49MPG HWY 9.2L/100km 31MPG CITY**
ELIGIBLE COSTCO MEMBERS RECEIVE AN ADDITIONAL $1,000** ON MOST NEW VEHICLES
COSTCO WHOLESALE
Get the gift that brings Endless Joy.
Only at your Prairie Ford Store.
Ford
Go Further
prairieford.ca

SiriusXM Available in most new Ford vehicles with 6-month pre-paid subscription

Vehicle(s) may be shown with optional equipment. Dealer may sell or lease for less. Limited time offers. Offers only valid at participating dealers. Retail offers may be cancelled or changed at any time without notice. See your Ford Dealer for complete details or call the Ford Customer Relationship Centre at 1-800-565-3673. For factory orders, a customer may either take advantage of eligible Ford retail customer promotional incentive/offers available at the time of vehicle factory order or time of vehicle delivery, but not both or combinations thereof. Retail offers not combinable with any CPA/GPC or Daily Rental incentives, the Commercial Upfit Program or the Commercial Fleet Incentive Program (CFIP). ▲ Between December 16 – 29, 2013, receive 0% APR purchase financing on new 2014 Ford models (excluding C-MAX, Mustang Shelby and BOSS 302, Flex, Explorer, Expedition, Transit Connect, E-Series, F-150 Regular Cab XL 4x2 (Value Leader), F-35 to F-550, and medium truck) for up to 60 months, to qualified retail customers, on approved credit (OAC) from Ford Credit. Not all buyers will qualify for the lowest interest rate. Example: $25,000 purchase financed at 0% APR for 48/60/72 months, monthly payment is $520.83/$416.66/$347.22, cost of borrowing is $0 or APR of 0% and total to be repaid is $25,000. Down payment on purchase financing offers may be required based on approved credit from Ford Credit. ‡ Offer valid until January 2, 2014 (the "Offer Period") to Canadian residents towards the purchase or lease of most new 2013/2014 Ford models (excluding Focus, Fiesta, C-MAX, Mustang Shelby and BOSS 302, Transit Connect Electric, and F-150 Raptor) (each an "Eligible Vehicle"). Only one (1) bonus offer may be applied towards the purchase or lease of one (1) Eligible Vehicle. Taxes payable before offer amount is deducted. *Purchase a new 2013 Ford F-150 Super Cab XLT 4x4 5.0L) for $26,999 (after Total Manufacturer Rebate of $10,250) deducted). Taxes payable on full amount of purchase price after total manufacturer rebate has been deducted. Offer excludes freight and air tax ($1,700) license, fuel fill charge, insurance, dealer PDI, registration, PPSA, administration fees, any environmental charges or fees, and all applicable taxes. All prices are based on Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Price. **Until January 31, 2014, receive (4.49%) / (2.49%/1.99%) APR purchase financing on new 2013 (F-150 Super Cab XLT 4x4 5.0L) / F-150 Super Crew XLT 4x4 5.0L) / 2014 (Fusion S/ Escape S) models for up to (72)/(84) months to qualified customers, on approved credit (OAC) from Ford Credit. Not all buyers will qualify for the lowest interest rate. Get the above for ($26,999/$29,349) / ($32,699/$32,999) purchase financed at (4.49%) / (2.49%/1.99%) APR for (72)/(84) months, with ($0)/($0) down payment, monthly payment is ($420/$412)/($430/$394) after delivery allowance of ($9,250)/ ($8,750)), (the sum of twelve (12) monthly payments divided by (24 periods) gives payee a bi-weekly payment of ($390/$238) / ($359/$315)), interest cost of borrowing is ($3,888/$4,259)/($2,819/$1,591) or APR of (4.49%/4.49%)/ (2.49%/1.99%) and total to be repaid is ($30,888/$34,008) / ($34,519/$34,591). Down payment may be required based on approved credit from Ford Credit. All purchase finance offers exclude freight and air tax ($1,700) license, fuel fill charge, insurance, dealer PDI, registration, PPSA, administration fees, any environmental charges or fees, and all applicable taxes. Taxes are payable on the full amount of the purchase price. All prices are based on Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Price. Delivery Allowances are not combinable with any fleet consumer incentives. **Offer only valid from December 3, 2013 to January 31, 2014 (the "Offer Period") to resident Canadians with an eligible Costco membership on or before November 30, 2013 who purchase or lease of a new 2013/2014 Ford (excluding Fiesta, Focus, C-Max, Raptor, GT500, Mustang Boss 302, Transit Connect EV, and Medium Truck) or Lincoln vehicle (each an "Eligible Vehicle"). Limit one (1) offer per each Eligible Vehicle purchase or lease, up to a maximum of two (2) separate Eligible Vehicle sales per Costco Membership Number. Offer is transferable to persons domiciled with an eligible Costco member. Applicable taxes calculated before CAD$1,000 offer is deducted. †† Claim based on analysis by Ford of Polk global new registrations for CY2012 for a single nameplate which excludes rebadged vehicles, platform derivatives or other vehicle nameplate versions. ◊ Based on R. L. Polk Canada, Inc. Total New Registration data for Full Size Pickups per Ford Segmentation as of YTD September 30, 2013. ~~Estimated fuel consumption ratings: for the 2013 (F-150 4X4 5.0L V8 6-Speed Auto) / 2014 (Focus 5 2.0L I4 6-Speed Auto/Fusion SE 2.5L - I4/Escape S FWD 1.6L GTDI-I4). Fuel consumption ratings based on Natural Resources Canada-approved test methods. Actual fuel consumption will vary based on road conditions, vehicle loading and driving habits. ® Registered trademark of Price Costco International, Inc. used under license. ©2013 Sirius Canada Inc. "SiriusXM", the SiriusXM logo, channel names and logos are trademarks of SiriusXM Radio Inc. and are used under license. ©2013 Ford Motor Company of Canada, Limited. All rights reserved.

ISTOCK

Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
Something you have been working on for a long time will bear fruit today. Others may say you've been lucky but the fact is you have laboured long and hard to get this far.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
You will handle everything life throws at you with grace and style. The planets endow you with limitless self-confidence and the kind of faith that moves mountains.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
You will have to take on new responsibilities over the next few days, including some of a financial nature. Show the world you have what it takes to handle difficult situations.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
Although the sun in Capricorn brings partnership problems to the fore, Mercury in your opposite sign will make it easier for you to see things from the other person's point of view.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
Matters of a routine nature will take up a lot of time but once you have completed your tasks you can move on to something more interesting. Whatever else you do today, don't cut corners.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
This should be a productive day for you — you will get a lot done in a short space of time. Make the most of it because as you move into the New Year not everything will come quite so easily.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Partners and colleagues will demand more of your time and attention today and if you are smart you will give it to them.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
You will get the chance to move up in the world in some way over the next few days and even though your mind may be on other things you must grab the opportunity.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Money matters must come first today and with Mercury joining the sun in the main financial area of your chart you will get the chance to balance the books.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Decide what is the most important thing you should be doing right now and do it to the exclusion of all else. Your efforts will not be wasted.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
What happens today will convince you that life is good and about to get even better. The only reason that your thoughts have been so negative of late is because you have allowed your emotions to blot out common sense. Time to rebalance.

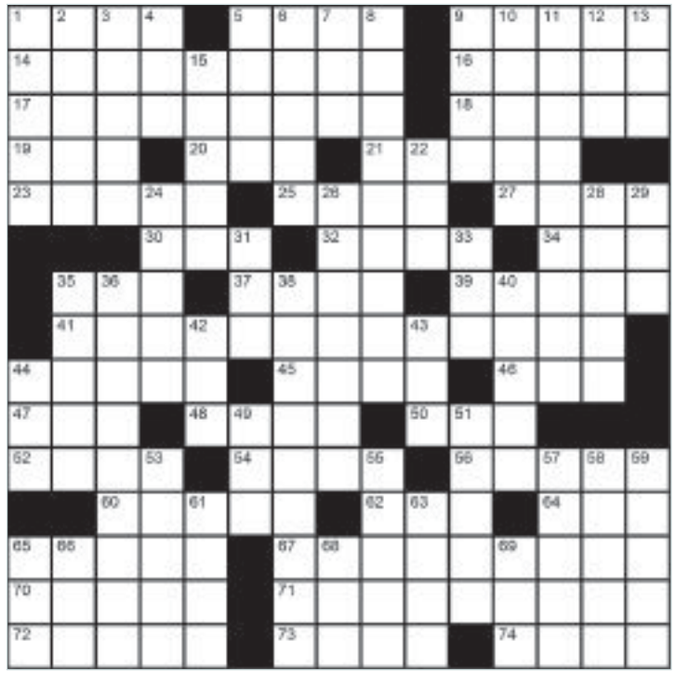
♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Try not to get too emotionally involved in other people's problems. Life is full of ups and downs, and so a more light-hearted approach from you today will be an example for them to follow.

SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



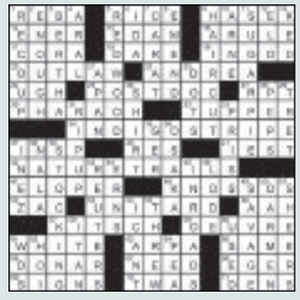
Across

1. "Hush! I __ __ the phone!"
5. Gentle
9. "__ Old St. Nicholas"
14. Artist's work
16. Grow like _ __
17. Saint-Jean-sur-__, Quebec
18. Distributes
19. Pitcher's stat.
20. _ __ mode
21. Pancake dish of Russia
23. Mailing enclosures, commonly
25. Nero's 651
27. Poinsettia part
30. Texter's "incidentally"
32. Jump
34. __-Cone
35. Overseas MTV honour (acronym)
37. Alum
39. Barbera's cartooning partner
41. The Huron Carol bit: "That mighty __ __ / Sent angel choirs instead."
44. Via ship: 2 wds.
45. Singer/songwriter Marvin
46. Prefix to "light"
47. Appropriate
48. Thailand currency
50. Premium car
52. French for "here and there": Ici __ __
54. Ancient portico
56. Distressed cries
60. Saskatchewan village between Regina and Saskatoon
62. American airer since '71
64. Furrow-maker
65. Helicopter part
67. Ontario community east of London
70. Satire
71. Where Canada is trying to lay territorial claim, as in recent headlines: 2 wds.
72. Holiday hue
73. Fellows
74. Belonging to an undercover agent

Down

1. __-ski
2. Ballerina/actress Ms. Shearer of The Red Shoes (1948)
3. Killer whales
4. To the __ power
5. Richard of Night Court
6. Ancient tale
7. Prevarication
8. __ Canada (Book publisher)
9. Actress Ms. Gertz
10. Buck of Hee Haw
11. "Oh, the weather outside is frightful..." Christmas carol: 3 wds.
12. Jeans brand
13. Li'l length units
15. Spread
22. Irish coronation stone, __ Fail
24. Online retail discount
26. Mott's beverage
28. Boredom
29. Bygone bird
31. Early 1920s President [monogram]
33. __ Beta Kappa
35. The Prince of __ (1998)
36. Festive foliage
38. Position in hockey: 2 wds.
40. When management might return from lunch, __ __
42. Music legend Mr. Calloway
43. Bird bill
44. UK defence contractor, _ _ _ Systems
49. Mount __ (Volcano of Japan)
51. Frankincense and __
53. Solo
55. Furious
57. __ it up (Celebrate)
58. Candy-on-a-stick
59. Monica of tennis
61. Welsh opera singer Mr. Terfel
63. Furry friends
65. Semi
66. Hockey Hall of Famer
68. __ _ Turn (Road sign)
69. Madonna's first hubby ... his initials-sharers

Yesterday's Crossword



Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

	9		7	8				
	2		5				1	9
		4	2			3		
						9	4	8
6				4				3
4	3	2						
		8			9	6		
7	1				5		9	
				1	3		5	

Yesterday's Sudoku

5	1	2	3	4	8	6	9	7
8	7	4	2	6	9	5	1	3
9	3	6	5	1	7	8	4	2
1	6	7	4	2	5	3	8	9
2	5	8	9	7	3	1	6	4
3	4	9	1	8	6	7	2	5
4	8	5	6	3	2	9	7	1
7	9	1	8	5	4	2	3	6
6	2	3	7	9	1	4	5	8

Weather

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
MAX: -12° MIN: -19°	MAX: -18° MIN: -25°	MAX: -19° MIN: -23°

BT BREAKFAST TELEVISION

JENNA KHAN
WEATHER SPECIALIST
"Weather impacts everything we do. Providing the information you need before you head out that door and take on the day is the best part of my morning." **WEEKDAYS 6 AM**

visit metronews.ca

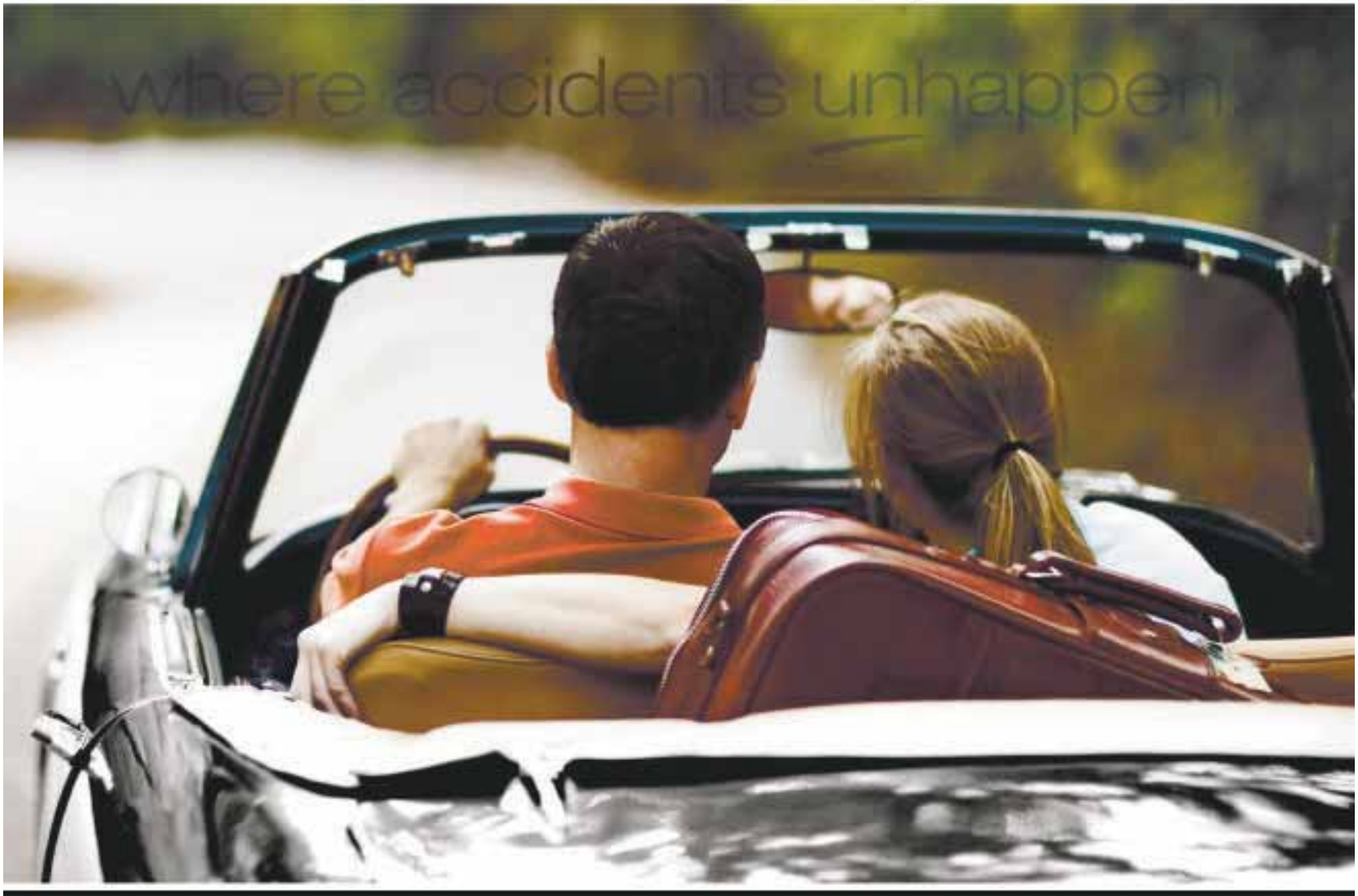
metro

At CARSTAR we know your time is valuable. That's why we make it our job to make your accident unhappen. We ensure that your repairs are done right, the first time, and on time. And, the service you receive will be second to none.

Twitter: @carstarmanitoba | Facebook: CARSTAR Manitoba

CARSTAR proudly offers:

- Collision repair
- Auto glass repair & replacement
- MPI accredited
- AIR MILES reward miles*



CARSTAR in Stonewall 467-4329
CARSTAR on Chevrier 475-7193
CARSTAR on Fife 632-7712
CARSTAR on Henderson 338-1551
CARSTAR on Saskatchewan 837-2399

**AIR MILES® reward miles not applicable on MPI claims.*

CARSTAR®
Collision & Glass Service